

REMARKS

By the present Amendment, claims 1-14 are cancelled and claims 15-34 are added. This leaves claims 15-34 pending in the application, with claim 15 being independent.

Circuits printed on an adhesive part closure carrier are disclosed and claimed in related applications of U.S. Patent Application No. 10/585,211 and U.S. Patent Application No. 10/585,210.

Substitute Specification

The specification is revised to avoid the objections raised in the Office Action and to eliminate grammatical and idiomatic errors in the originally presented specification. The number and nature of the changes made in the specification would render it difficult to consider the case and to arrange the papers for printing or copying. Thus, the substitute specification will facilitate processing of the application. The substitute specification includes no "new matter". Pursuant to M.P.E.P. § 608.01(q), voluntarily filed, substitute specifications under these circumstances should normally be accepted. A marked-up copy of the original specification is appended hereto.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Original claims 1-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. By the present Amendment, the originally filed claims are rewritten to avoid the language alleged to be indefinite in the Office Action. All language of the presently pending claims is now believed to be clear and definite.

Thus, the pending claims are definite and comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103

Claim 15 cover an adhesive closure part 1 comprising a flat carrier 3 having first and second opposite surfaces, adhesive closure elements 2 of electrically insulating plastic projecting from the first surface of the flat carrier and a circuit 5. The adhesive closure elements comprise hooks, mushroom-shaped members or loops. Circuit 5 is directly on the second surface of the flat carrier, and includes at least an electrical component or an electronic component.

By forming the adhesive closure part in this manner, the adhesive closure part is provided with increased functionality in a manner which is simple and compact to manufacture and use. This advantage is particularly provided by the circuit being directly on the flat carrier surface opposite the closure elements. Such arrangement is not disclosed or rendered obvious by any of the cited patents.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 8 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,136,470 to Sheridan. The Sheridan patent is cited (Figs. 2-4) for an adhesive closure part 40, 40a with a plurality of closure elements 40a projecting from one surface of the carrier where a circuit (col. 3, lines 3-5) with an electrical electronic component (IC chips; col. 3, lines 3-5) located on the side of the carrier opposite the closure elements. Another electrical component 26a is allegedly located on the flat carrier (claim 2). The circuit allegedly has conductor strips (col. 3, lines 20-25), relative to claim 6. Relative to claim 8, the circuit allegedly has an integrated semi-conductor component (col. 3, lines 5-15). Relative to claim 14, the closure elements are allegedly produced from polymer plastic (col. 4, lines 25-30). The claim 4 limitation of the application of thin or thick film technology is alleged to be a process limitation and is not given significant patentable weight.

Claims 5, 7 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over the Sheridan patent. In support of the rejection, official notice is taken of and it is alleged that it would be obvious to provide a further electrical or electronic component on the carrier, to provide sensors and to include an energy storage device.

Claims 9-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over the Sheridan patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,173,899 to Rozin. The Rozin patent is cited for including a memory within an integrated circuit and a coil for contactless reading (col. 2, lines 45-60 and col. 3, lines 10-25). In support of the rejection, it is alleged that it would be obvious to include the Rozin memory and coil in the Sheridan device. Additionally, the reading of data in the data memory without contact of claim 10, the storing without contact of claim 11 and the coupling of energy for operating the circuit without contact is also alleged to be obvious based on this combination.

The Sheridan patent does not disclose a circuit directly on a surface of the flat carrier remote from the adhesive closure elements. Instead, as typically illustrated in Fig. 4, an adhesive 47 separates and is used to bond a stiffener board or substrate on which electrical or electronic components, such as resistor 26 are mounted, on tape segment 40. Similarly, Velcro sheet 51 is attached by adhesive 54 to a stiffener plate assembly or printed circuit board on which the electrical or electronic components are mounted. Thus, in each of the two cases of Fig. 4, the flat carrier is separated from the electrical circuit by (1) the adhesive 47 or 54 and (2) the board 30 or 50 from the tape segment 40 or the Velcro sheet 51. Such separation is contrary to the direct mounting of the circuit on the flat carrier second surface, as recited in claim 15.

Accordingly, claim 15 is patentably distinguishable over the Sheridan patent. None of the other cited patents cure this deficiency in the Sheridan patent.

Claims 16-34, being dependent upon claim 15, are also allowable for the above reasons. Moreover, these dependent claims recite additional features further distinguishing them over the cited patents.

Claim 16 is further distinguishable by another electric or electronic component located in or directly on the flat carrier. Since none of the electrical or electronic components of the Sheridan patent are in or directly on tape segment 40 or Velcro sheet 51, the Sheridan patent does not disclose or render obvious this feature.

Claim 17 corresponds to original claim 3 which is indicated as reciting patentable subject matter. Thus, the record will not be burdened with further comments thereon.

Claim 18 is further distinguishable by the electrical or electronic component comprising an application of thick and thin film technology. Such limitation is a structural limitation which must be given patentable weight. See, for example, In Re Garnero, 412 F.2d 276, 162 USPQ 221 (C.C.P.A. 1969).

Claim 19 is further distinguishable by the lamination of the electrical or electronic component onto the flat carrier. Relative to this feature, official notice is taken. Such taking of official notice is challenged such that the citation of evidence demonstrating the obviousness of this feature is now required. M.P.E.P. §2144.03 C.

Claim 20 is further distinguishable by the circuit comprising conductor strips that are on the flat carrier. The Sheridan patent does not disclose conductor strips directly on tape segment 40 or Velcro sheet 51.

Claim 21 is further distinguishable by the circuit comprising electrical or electronic sensors that are directly on the flat carrier. As noted above, the Sheridan patent does not disclose or render obvious this feature.

Claim 22 is further distinguishable by the circuit comprising an integrated semiconductor component that is directly on the flat carrier. As noted above, such feature is not disclosed or rendered obvious by the Sheridan patent.

Claim 23- 26 are further distinguishable by the data memory (claim 23), the data readable without contact (claim 24), the data storable without contact (claim 25) and the coil where the semiconductor component and coil are directly on the flat carrier (claim 26). Such structure is not taught by the Sheridan patent, for the reasons noted above. The Rosen patent does not disclose a flat carrier with adhesive closure elements on one surface and a circuit on another opposite surface, and thus, does not cure the deficiencies in the Sheridan patent.

Claims 27 and 28 are further distinguishable by the energy storage device (claim 27), which device is an application of thin or thick film technology (claim 28). Such devices are not disclosed or rendered obvious by the Sheridan patent since none are directly on a flat carrier with adhesive closure elements on its opposite side.

Claim 29 is further distinguishable by the particular plastic materials, within the overall claimed combination.

Claim 30 is further distinguishable by the printed conductors directly on the flat carrier connected to an electrical component. No such direct connection is disclosed or rendered obvious by the cited patents.

Claim 31 is further distinguishable by the circuit comprising printed electrical conductors directly on the flat carrier connected to an electrical component integrated in the flat carrier. Such claim would also be allowable for the reasons indicated for original claim 3.

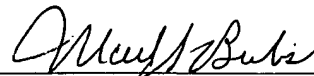
Claim 32 is further distinguishable by the circuit comprising printed electrical conductors directly on the flat carrier connected to and extending from an electronic component laminated directly on the flat carrier and connected to the printed conductors. No such printed conductors connected to a laminated electrical component are disclosed in or rendered obvious by the Sheridan patent.

Claim 33 is further distinguishable by the electrical conductors directly on the flat carrier having adjacent ends abutting one another which are movable between abutting and separated positions. No such arrangement is disclosed or rendered obvious by the cited patents.

Claim 34 is further distinguishable by the flat carrier being flexible and insulating. Such flexibility and insulation are inherent in the disclosed materials.

In view of the foregoing, claims 15-34 are allowable. Prompt and favorable action is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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